



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

OCT 28 2019

Ref: 20-F-0107

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 81210
411 A highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

To whom it may concern:

This is an interim response to your October 18, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on the same date, and assigned it case number 20-F-0107. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Although we have already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances which impact our ability to quickly process your request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. At least one, if not more of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. While this office handles FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff (JS) and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required records searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative workload is approximately 3,068 open requests.

In some instances, we have found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests.

The OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Darrell Williams, is available at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil to answer any concerns about the foregoing.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

We regret the delay in responding to your request and appreciate your patience. If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Angeline D. Hester at angeline.d.hester.civ@mail.mil or 571-372-0410.

Sincerely,



Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

Enclosure:
As stated